

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

APPROVED BY EUR:MR. HARTMAN

C:MR.SONNENFELDT

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

M:MR. EAGLEBURGER

DG/PER - MR. WORTZEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 260825

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FOR THE CHARGE ONLY FROM SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT:PNG CASES

REF: MOSCOW 15869

1. MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT BREMENT PROBLEM.

2. AGREE THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE
TO PREVENT WORD SPREADING FOR REASONS BEYOND YOUR AND OUR
CONTROL. IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, THAT WE NOT HAVE
TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE WILL NOT BE COMING BACK UNTIL AT
LEAST THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF HIS PLANNED RETURN TO POST.
AT THAT TIME OUR INCLINATION REGARDING ON-THE-RECORD
COMMENTS IS TO STICK TO THE LINE THAT HE HAS BEEN TRANS-
FERRED PERIOD, AND SIMPLY TO NO COMMENT THE INEVITABLE
QUESTION ABOUT PNG. WE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER
FRANKLY WITH EMPLOYEES AND POSSIBLY ON DEEP BACKGROUND WITH
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THE PRESS. ONE REASON FOR DUCKING ON THE RECORD IS THE

POINT YOU RAISE ABOUT HIS BEING DENIED THE POSSIBILITY OF AGAIN SERVING IN THE USSR. WE ARE CONTEMPLATING PROPOSING TO THE SOVIETS A QUIET UNDERSTANDING WHICH WOULD LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS LATER RETURN, BUT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF WE HAVE TO BRING OUT ON THE RECORD THE FACTS ABOUT STEPANOV, WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY BE NECESSARY IF WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BREMENT WAS IN EFFECT PNG'D.

3. WE SHARE YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF FINDING A SUITABLE ONWARD POSITION, AND QUICKLY. THIS WILL NOT BE EASY, HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF BREMENT'S PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR A POST ABROAD. WE ARE INCLINED TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO HIS OWN WISHES. DEPENDING ON WHAT FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT WE CAN COME UP WITH, THIS MAY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO STICK TO THE LINE IN THE PRECEDIG PARAGRAPH, BUT WE THINK WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

4. FOR THE PRESENT, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD HANDLE ANY INQUIRIES BY SAYING THAT HE IS ON HOME LEAVE AND YOU DO NOT YET KNOW WHEN HE WILL RETURN. IN THE EVENT OF PRESS INQUIRIES, ADVISE US BY IMMEDIATE.

5. WE ARE WORKING ON A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT AND IN THE PROCESS WILL CONSULT YOU FURTHER. KISSINGER

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